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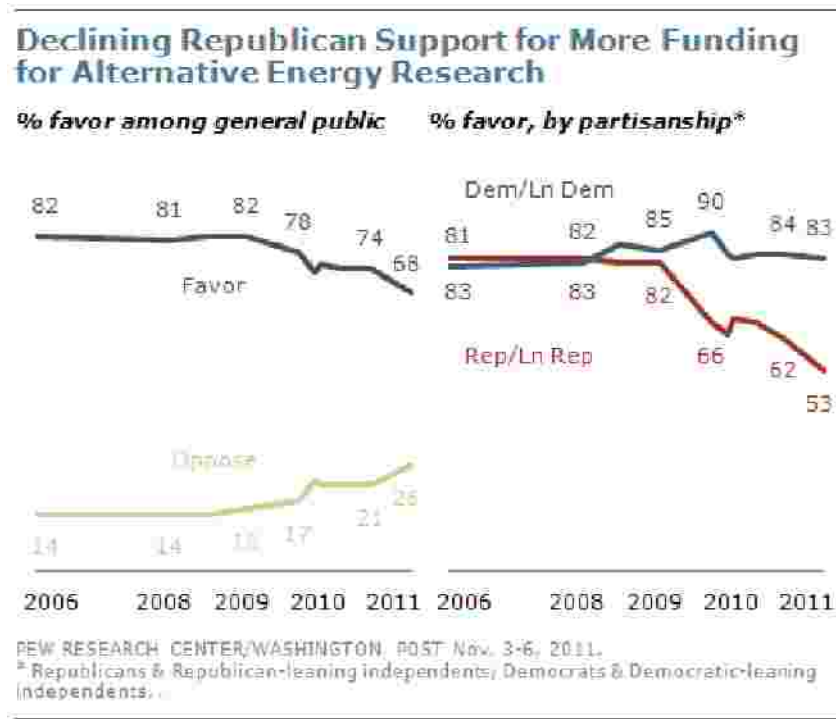
Partisan Divide Over Alternative Energy Widens

Republicans View Gov't Energy Investments as Unnecessary

Overview

Public support for increased federal funding on research into alternative energy technology, including solar technology, has decreased substantially since the early months of the Obama administration, with nearly all the decline coming from Republicans and Republican-leaning independents.

Overall, 68% of the public favors increasing federal funding for research on wind, solar and hydrogen energy technology while 26% are opposed. From 2006 through early 2009, roughly 80% supported increased federal funding for alternative energy research.



Since April 2009, there has been a 30-point decline in the percentage of Republicans and Republican leaners supporting more federal funding for research into alternative energy technologies. Currently, 53% favor this policy, down from 82% in April 2009. There has been little change in opinions among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents. Currently, 83% of Democrats favor increased funding for research into alternative energy technologies.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and The Washington Post, conducted Nov. 3-6 among 1,005 adults, finds that a narrow majority of the public (52%) thinks that government investment is necessary to develop new energy technology. About four-in-ten (39%) say that businesses will produce needed energy technology without government support.

Most Democrats See Energy Investments as Necessary

<i>In developing new energy technology...</i>	Total	Rep/Lean Dem/Lean	
		Rep	Dem
	%	%	%
Gov't investment is necessary	52	36	68
Business will produce technology without gov't investment	39	59	24
Don't know	9	5	8
	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/WASHINGTON POST Nov. 3-6, 2011. PEW/P2.

On this measure there also is a large partisan divide. Two-thirds (68%) of Democrats and Democratic leaners say government investment in new energy is necessary. Most Republicans and GOP leaners (59%) say businesses will produce technology without government investment.

Overall, somewhat fewer now say that government investment is needed for the development of new energy technology than did so in April 2009. At that time, 58% viewed government investment as necessary and 32% said businesses were able to produce needed technology without government investment.

Alternative Energy Draws More Support than Increased Drilling

<i>Policies for addressing nation's energy supply...</i>	Favor Oppose DK		
	%	%	%
More federal funding for alternative energy	68	26	6=100
Allowing more oil & gas drilling in U.S. waters	58	35	7=100
Allowing more mining & drilling on federal land	58	34	7=100
Promoting the increased use of nuclear power	39	53	8=100
Providing subsidies for ethanol production	38	48	14=100

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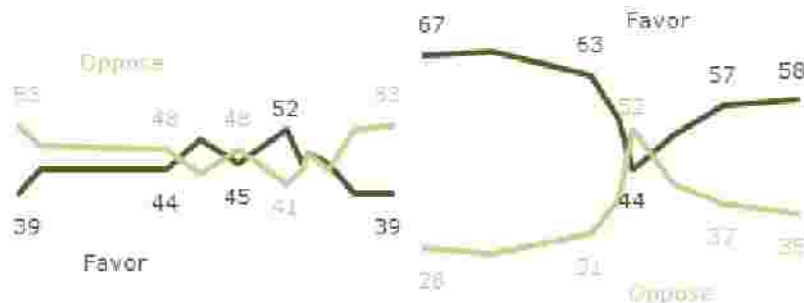
Views of Other Energy Policies

Support for government funding for alternative energy research has fallen since 2009, but this policy continues to draw more support

Opposition to More Nuclear Power, Support for Increased Offshore Drilling

Promoting the increased use of nuclear power

Allowing more offshore oil and gas drilling in U.S. waters



Sept 2005	Nov 2011	Sept 2008	Nov 2011
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PEW RESEARCH CENTER/WASHINGTON POST Nov. 3-5, 2011. PEWWPIa & PEWWPIc.

than other ways to address America's supply. Nearly six-in-ten (58%) favor more oil and gas drilling in U.S. waters and the same percentage favors allowing more mining and drilling on federally owned land.

Support for increased offshore drilling is little changed from March, but has increased since last year's oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. In June 2010, before the spill was contained, only 44% favored more offshore drilling. Slightly fewer Americans favor increased offshore drilling today than did so a few months before the Gulf spill (63% in February 2010).

More Americans continue to oppose (53%) than favor (39%) promoting the increased use of nuclear power. Support for increased use of nuclear power has not recovered following the nuclear disaster at Japan's Fukushima nuclear power plant. Opinion about increased nuclear power had been divided prior to the Japan disaster. (For more, see "[Opposition to Nuclear Power Rises Amid Japanese Crisis](#)," March 21, 2011).

Only about four-in-ten (38%) favor government subsidies for ethanol production as a policy for addressing the U.S. energy supply. Nearly half (48%) oppose ethanol subsidies.

Energy Policies Divisive

Nearly eight-in-ten Republicans and Republican leaners (78%) favor allowing more mining and drilling on federally owned land; just 46% of Democrats and Democratic leaners support

Partisan Gaps over Energy Policies

	Total	Rep/ Lean Rep	Dem/ Lean Dem	R-D Diff
<i>% in favor ...</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	
More mining/drilling on federal land	58	78	46	+32
More oil/gas drilling in U.S. waters	58	77	46	+31
Promoting increased use of nuclear power	39	54	30	+24
Subsidies for ethanol production	38	32	45	-13
More fed. funding for alternative energy	68	53	83	-30

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/WASHINGTON POST Nov. 3-6, 2011. PEW WP1.

_____ this policy. The partisan gap is as wide in views of allowing more offshore oil and gas drilling (31 points). In addition, more Republicans (54%) than Democrats (30%) favor promoting the increased use of nuclear power.

More Democrats and Democratic leaners than Republicans and Republican leaners favor promoting federal subsidies for ethanol production (45% vs. 32%). And Democrats are far more likely than Republicans to support increased federal funding for alternative energy research (83% vs. 53%).

In contrast to the gap over alternative energy, the partisan differences over more offshore drilling and increased use of nuclear power date back several years. In April 2009, 86% of Republicans and GOP leaners favored increased offshore oil and gas drilling, compared with 57% of Democrats and Democratic leaners. In addition, 59% of Republicans favored greater use of nuclear power compared with just 38% of Democrats.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted November 3-6, 2011, among a national sample of 1,005 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (601 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 404 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 185 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling

International. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see: <http://people-press.org/methodology/detailed>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, population density to parameters from the March 2010 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2010 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,005	4.0 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	387	6.0 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	461	5.5 percentage points